

USAWC STRATEGY RESEARCH PROJECT

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL  
SECURITY STRATEGY FOR COMBATING TERRORISM**

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## ABSTRACT

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Throughout the history of the United States, extremist and terrorist groups have organized and fought against the American way of life because of their antagonistic political, religious and governmental ideology. With the attack on American soil on September 11, 2001, terrorist groups dramatically became the United States' foremost adversary. While terrorism may be simply viewed as a crime against humanity, the United States must pursue a comprehensive policy and strategy to deal with such acts anywhere and anytime because they threaten its national security. This research paper will address the organizational structures and goals of Al-Qaeda, the international terrorist group that poses the greatest threat to United States national security, and why their representative causes do so. It concludes with a current assessment of the United States Strategy for Combating Terrorism, offering recommendations for ensuring the safety of America's interests both at home and abroad.



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## AN ASSESSMENT OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY FOR COMBATING TERRORISM

We will defeat terrorist organizations of global reach through relentless action. We will deny terrorists the sponsorship, support, and sanctuary they need to survive. We will win the war of ideas and diminish the underlying conditions that promote the despair and the destructive visions of political change that lead people to embrace, rather than shun, terrorism. And throughout, we will use all the means at our disposal to defend against terrorist attacks on the United States, our citizens, and our interests around the world.

—President Bush, February 2003

### A NEW WORLD

Throughout the history of the United States, extremist and terrorist groups have periodically organized and attacked America's way of life because of their antagonistic political, religious, and governmental ideology. Since the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, the world has changed drastically. America is no longer locked in a Cold War battle that pitted this great nation against Russia and its communist beliefs. Weapons of mass destruction that were formerly a last resort weapon are now used as threats to gain control. The same is true for attacks on innocent civilian personnel; they are now prime targets for terrorist groups. On September 11, 2001, the terrorist group, Al-Qaeda, led by Osama Bin Laden, became the United States' foremost adversary. The group's unprovoked attacks on the United States by flying two hijacked commercial airliners into the World Trade Center Towers in New York City, one into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and another into a field in Pennsylvania became a call to war as these attacks struck at the hearts of all Americans. The US quickly and accurately identified Al-Qaeda as the terrorist group responsible for these horrendous and cowardly attacks. These attacks, coupled with several others committed across the globe against Americans and foreign noncombatants, have revealed Al-Qaeda as a well-financed and complex organization capable of conducting extensive attack planning against Americans at home and abroad. As President Bush noted shortly after the attacks :

The enemy is not one person. It is not a single person political regime. Certainly, it is not a religion. The enemy is terrorism – premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents. Those who employ terrorism, regardless of their specific secular or religious objectives, strive to subvert the rule of law and effect change through violence and fear. These terrorists also share the misguided belief that killing, kidnapping, extorting, robbing, and wreaking havoc to terrorize people are legitimate forms of political action.<sup>1</sup>



Although terrorism, in the simplest of terms, is a crime against humanity, the terrorist group Al-Qaeda is the leading threat to United States national interest today. The United States must therefore ensure that its national security policy for combating terrorism is comprehensive enough to defeat this threat and secure America's national values and interests.

### **THE SPINELESS ENEMY**

According to US counter-terrorism reports, Al-Qaeda is intensely anti-western. This extremist group preaches destruction of the United States. It promotes the unrestricted killing of all Americans because America, in their twisted version of Islam, is Islam's prime enemy. In the Arab region, Al-Qaeda's primary goal is the complete overthrow of what they believe are corrupt Muslim states whose governments and laws must be replaced with the rule of Sharia (Islamic law). Seeking to gain support among Arabic Muslims, Osama Bin Laden changed the fundamentalist interpretation of the Koran, a book of peace, to fit his violent political ideological struggle to remove all Americans and other westerners from the Holy Lands. A self-proclaimed Holy man, Osama Bin Laden approved and issued a religious fatwa directive against all Americans. It declares: "The ruling to kill the Americans and their allies -- civilians and military - is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it... We -- with God's help -- call on every Muslim who believes in God and wishes to be rewarded to comply with God's order to kill the Americans and plunder their money wherever and whenever they find it".<sup>2</sup>

Most people do not know who Osama Bin Laden is and how his Al-Qaeda organization originated. The son of a wealthy Saudi construction owner, Osama Bin Laden departed for Afghanistan in 1979 to help free the Muslim state of Afghanistan from the Russians. In Afghanistan, he developed his future terrorist group Al-Qaeda into what it is today; a complex, multi-country, high tech, operationally adaptable organization that is financially supported by Osama Bin Laden's personal wealth, Islamic charities and a host of other legal and illegal enterprises. In Afghanistan, he quickly set about building the necessary infrastructures, utilizing his own wealth to support the war effort. During this period, Osama Bin Laden established numerous recruiting offices throughout the Arab region and across the globe called Maktab-al-Khidamat, or service offices, to enlist young Muslims. In return for his financial and military support against the Soviets, the Afghan government gave Al-Qaeda land and resources to help facilitate Osama Bin Laden's need for training facilities. Osama Bin Laden then paid mercenaries to train Arab Afghan fighters in the art of guerilla warfare, sabotage, explosives, and covert operations to fight the Russians. With such governmental backing, it was only a

short time before Osama Bin Laden's Mujahedin fighters grew to a force of approximately 10,000 men to fight the Russians and liberate Afghanistan. After ten years of furious fighting, Al-Qaeda was successful in removing the Russians from Afghanistan. Then Osama Bin Laden's fighters departed Afghanistan to continue their jihad in other parts of the world, including the Balkans, Philippines, Indonesia, and Africa. Their victory over the Soviets advanced their cause, enhancing the terrorist group's ability to establish or join other Islamic terrorist groups in almost every country in the world. This expansion of Al-Qaeda throughout the world was facilitated through their use of modern technology (satellite phones, internet e-mail and chat rooms) and unregulated financial systems. These daily conveniences which most Americans take for granted have served as the primary means in the coordination of Al-Qaeda's daily operations, recruitment, attack planning, information campaign, and financial support programs.

In 1991, Osama Bin Laden directed activities against the Saudi Royal Family, which responded by stripping him of his Saudi citizenship and expelling him from Saudi Arabia. He was finally disowned by his own family. Abandoned by family and disowned by his native country, Osama Bin Laden journeyed to Sudan, where he set up multiple legitimate businesses to finance Al-Qaeda operations for the next five years. During this period, Al-Qaeda grew, refining its operations while continually subjecting its members to a violent ideology directed against all Westerners. Osama Bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda terrorist group were finally expelled by Sudan because of pressures exerted on them by the United Nations after Al-Qaeda attempted to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. In May 1996, Osama Bin Laden returned to Afghanistan where he helped the Taliban government control the country. Osama Bin Laden then announced his strategy that it is the duty of all Muslims to join the jihad against all Americans:

On May 28, 1998, the Islamabad daily reported that Osama Bin Laden had announced the formation of an International Islamic Jihad against America and Israel. Talking to a group of journalists who had traveled from Pakistan to meet him at his base in Khost in southern Afghanistan, Bin Laden justified the formation of the anti-American and anti-Israeli front by arguing that Muslims everywhere in the world were suffering at the hands of the US and Israel. He said the Muslims must wage holy war against their real enemies not only to rid themselves of unpopular regimes backed by the Americans and Israelis but also to protect their faith. When a reporter maintained that Bin Laden and his colleagues could not possibly take on the world's only super power, Bin Laden contended that the US was vulnerable and could be defeated in war.<sup>3</sup>

It was here that Osama Bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda terrorist group trained and operated. On September 11, 2001, he ordered the attacks on America from his Afghan lair. In response to

the September 2001 attack, the United States executed Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and committed combat forces into Afghanistan for the purpose of bringing to justice Osama Bin Laden and taking down the Taliban government that supported his terrorist activities and destroying all personnel, facilities and equipment belonging to the Al-Qaeda organization. In March 2003, the United States executed Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) to remove Saddam Hussein as the dictator of Iraq and his linkage with Arab terrorist groups. As of December 2003, reports regarding Al-Qaeda and coordination with Saddam Hussein contradict each other and thereby will not be pursued in this paper.

#### **THE “4D” STRATEGY**

Immediately after September 11, 2001, America realized the world had tragically changed. The primary threats to America now come from terrorists and terrorist groups who utilize the freedom offered by democratic countries to perfect their evil acts against society. In an address to Congress on September 24, 2001 President Bush stated, “The attacks of September 11, 2001, highlighted in the most tragic way the threat posed to the security and national interest of the United States by terrorists who have abandoned any regard for humanity, decency, morality, or honor.”<sup>4</sup> This threat brings with it new challenges that are unique to America’s law enforcement agencies, intelligence agencies, and military services. The armed services have since begun adopting new tactics and doctrine to win the global war on terrorism. This change from the old Cold War strategy has lead General Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the Army to comment that “Old rules no longer apply. It is not business as usual. This State of War requires us to challenge old paradigms, to be flexible and adaptable to face a cunning and devious enemy”.<sup>5</sup>

To defeat this threat, President Bush implemented a new aggressive counter-terrorism policy that he incorporated on February 14, 2003 into the National Strategy for Combating Terrorism. This strategy’s primary mission is to identify and defuse terrorist threats before they reach the United States. Together with Section III of the National Security Strategy, it provides the foundation of the United States policy in dealing with terrorist and terrorist acts. The strategy utilizes a “4D” concept of defeat, deny, diminish, and defend. In the end, the goal of the United States is not only to have defeated terrorism, but also to have changed the face of the world by developing a freer, more prosperous international society that is willing to accept democratic values. To accomplish this goal, the United States will engage terrorists and terrorist groups directly and aggressively in order to disrupt and destroy their organizations. The United States will knowingly fight the terrorist in an asymmetrical environment and will defeat

them by bringing to bear every element of national power (political, economic, informational, and military) that is required to annihilate terrorism from the face of the earth.<sup>6</sup>

The way to defeat Al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations is to develop the political means to establish new coalitions and strengthen old alliances among the international community to support the fight on terrorism. In addition, aggressive information collection operations by United States intelligence agencies and military/law enforcement agencies, as well as the United States Customs Service, will be conducted in order to reveal terrorists' and terrorist group's modus operandi and discover their individual operatives and locations of their secret operating bases. The Department of State is responsible for coordination of international terrorist apprehension as well as termination of their financial support system to ensure all national powers are brought to bear to defeat terrorism.<sup>7</sup> To date, the United States' attempts to defeat terrorism through the political means of establishing a coalition to combat terrorists has been mixed. During OEF and OIF, the United States established multi-nation coalitions that have supported the operations with both combat forces and much needed intelligence information. On the negative side, however, long term supportive coalition partners such as Germany, France, and Russia, have opposed the United States intervention in Iraq and are questioning the United States strategy concerning the global war on terrorism (GWOT).

To deny sponsorship and sanctuary to Al-Qaeda and other terrorists, regardless of where they may operate in the world, requires denying them a base of operation, thereby placing the organization in a continuous state of flux and thus reducing their capabilities. Political means will be directed at enacting and establishing treaties throughout the international community that strengthen defensive measures and reduce support to Al-Qaeda and terrorist organizations. Current treaties include the Rio Treaty and Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which assures the support of South America and Europe in our fight against terror. United Nations (UN) Resolution 1373 establishes the base line regarding non-sponsorship of terrorists for all states within the United Nations to follow; it also affirms that all states have the right of self-defense and collective defense amongst their allies. The United States will offer economic and military incentives to those states showing progress in their fight with terror, while others unwilling to comply will receive no monetary or material aid and will risk having trade sanctions placed against them. To ensure the United States is correct in its assessment of a country's terrorist status, the Department of State will be responsible for conducting an annual review of each nation's counterterrorism endeavors to verify that United States' incentives are justified. The State Department will also ensure all agencies within the government will promote counterterrorism requirements in all their business dealings with foreign nations. This

promotion will serve to remind the international community the United States will not forget its pledge to defeat terrorism.<sup>8</sup>

Denying support to Al-Qaeda and other terrorists groups has progressed very rapidly and made several large gains since September 11, 2001. International treaties supporting the United States aggressive pursuit of Al-Qaeda members and the sharing of valuable intelligence has stalled numerous planned terrorist attacks in several nations. Its policy of offering incentives or penalties has been a wake up call to the world that the United States will not allow nations to harbor terrorists without consequences. Syria's trading status was reduced in December 2003 because of its inability to confront and act upon terrorist activities in their country. Since September 14, 2001 and President Bush's signing of "Executive Order 13224 blocking terrorist property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism"<sup>9</sup> sponsorship of Al-Qaeda by individuals, businesses, and charitable institutions has greatly decreased. This decrease is due to the State Department, Treasury Department, and other agencies freezing all assets that may support terrorism. Internationally, the United States has supported numerous nations with equipment, funding, and specialized training to defeat terrorist cells from their country. In a recent article in the Patriot News, it was reported that during a trip to the Philippines, "Bush told a joint session of the Philippine Congress that the United States would help modernize the Philippine military in its battle against the Abu Sayyaf separatist group. The group is thought to be associated with al-Qaida."<sup>10</sup> It is because of actions such as these by the United States that this portion of the 4D strategy has been successful.

The next way the United States plans to achieve victory over Al-Qaeda is by diminishing the kinds of conditions that terrorists' exploit, such as social disenfranchisement and unresolved political and regional disputes that bedevil several Muslims nations today. Exploitation of the human race will be decreased through informational means through which terrorism is de-glorified by the world media as being a gross violation of human rights, just as slavery and ethnic killings are loathed. So terrorist and the acts they commit are viewed as criminal activities with no ideological or political reform value. Informational programs concerning human dignity, democratic values, advantages of a market based economy, and the freedoms of self-government must be expanded so the world community can make an informed decision on the type of life and government under which they wish to live. Every effort should be made by United States authorities to ensure that all Muslims understand that America is not at war against the Muslim religion of Islam. Additionally, the United States must increase its commitment towards a lasting peace settlement between Israel and Palestine in order to end

their Middle Eastern regional conflict. The United States supports the idea of an independent Palestine while continuing to encourage Israel and Palestine to work toward an agreement that is mutually fair to each party that will bring about a lasting peace to this troubled part of the Arab world.<sup>11</sup>

Diminishing the conditions that terrorists exploit has made marginal progress since September 11, 2001. Given the fact this endeavor involves using economic, political, and informational elements of national power, to advance quality of life standards will take three to five years at best considering the current third world situation. The United States has failed in its efforts to date in establishing a credible informational campaign in which Muslims speak out to their fellow Muslims on the virtues of what the United States is attempting to accomplish for world peace by defeating Al-Qaeda. The United States efforts in OEF and OIF have overshadowed any real efforts to settle the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. To establish a binding peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors would help diminish this terrorist breeding ground and reduce the hatred for non-Muslims.

Finally, the defense of US citizens and their interests at home and overseas is a critical part of the overall strategy. The National Strategy of Combating Terrorism addresses the issues of security of the US infrastructure by linking this requirement to the National Strategy for Homeland Security, the National Strategy for Secure Cyberspace, and the National Strategy for The Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructures and Key Assets. These three strategies combine to reduce the probability of a terrorist attack against not only the citizens of the United States, but also against the nation's critical infrastructure (electrical, transportation, communications-phone & internet, and financial systems). To ensure current and timely information to decrease the United States' vulnerability, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) - in conjunction with the Department of Defense (DOD), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) will establish the Terrorist Threat Integration Center. This Center will consolidate all information regarding terrorist/terrorist group activities and analyze that information for dissemination to law enforcement agencies. Securing critical infrastructure depends on cooperation that private industry will extend towards augmenting and increasing security measures of those type assets.<sup>12</sup>

Since the creation of the Office of Homeland Security for the defense of the United States homeland, the overall security here has improved immeasurably. Law enforcement agencies have developed an integrated intelligence sharing process that supports not only federal agencies, but also police personnel working patrol duties. Critical infrastructure has been identified by each state, but due to the enormous task of funding security upgrades, this project

will take years. According to the 2003 Federal Computer Security scorecard, "... overall the federal government received a score of D for cybersecurity, up from a grade of F a year earlier."<sup>13</sup> The ability to produce a single grade upgrade is an improvement since prior to September 11, 2001, the United States did not have an overall security standard in this area. Transportation security has greatly increased at airports, with international airports possessing state of the art bomb and metal detection equipment, which every piece of baggage and every passenger must pass through prior to being allowed to board an aircraft. New technological advancements in security and detection of numerous types of elements that could compose a bomb are being tested daily for possible use in the United States to defend against terrorist activities.

## **THE RISK**

The risk associated with the implementation of the National Strategy for Combating Terrorism is immense due to the numerous and unforeseen international and domestic variables to which the United States is exposed. The strategy commits all of the United States national power to reshaping the world to eliminate terrorism and promote American interests and values. This may cause some friction with several states that do not support the United States democratic way of life. The strategic end state is to defeat terrorism; the ways to accomplish this strategy will be by engaging terrorism through every element of its national power (political, economic, informational, and military). Many question the feasibility of this strategy because the United States has increased its national risk in numerous ways. The primary risk is the over-extension of the United States intelligence collection agencies and the incentives offered openly to the nations of the world if they will fight terrorism. Another way that the risk has been increased, which will not be discussed, is the accumulation of a huge national debt to pay for the GWOT. These may be perceived as an open agenda for the United States to do at will as it wants. Risk has also been increased by the passage of laws that make it easier for federal and state enforcement agencies to share intelligence, yet these laws may make America's civil liberties organizations cry out in protest.

The primary area that is jeopardized is intelligence operations. According to Michele Flourney, senior advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, "intelligence is indispensable in the global war on terrorism. However, given the nature of the enemy, there is no assurance that the quality of intelligence on organizations like Al-Qaeda will notably improve without institutional change and a sustained effort by the intelligence community."<sup>14</sup> Because of reductions in collection assets over the last decade, the United States Central Intelligence

Agency is short agents and currently unable to satisfy all the intelligence requirements regarding terrorist activities. Because of this, the United States must rely on supportive information gathering operations from foreign governments to accomplish its global collection requirements to the degree required to execute this mission. The intelligence community's single greatest loss has been in the human intelligence (HUMINT) collection area; modern technology was thought capable of filling this void of operators. But it could not, because "terrorist organizations do not rely on the kind of assets that make other intelligence targets such as governments easier to penetrate. Thus, national technical means of collection--satellites, electronic eavesdropping and surveillance aircraft--are less effective."<sup>15</sup> Human intelligence agents must infiltrate Al-Qaeda, if possible, to defeat these terrorists. Even with the current elevated hiring pace of the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Central Intelligence Agency, it will be several years before agents can become embedded in their areas of operation and knowledgeable enough within their field to produce timely and credible information on terrorist activities. Couple this shortage with domestic intelligence analysis required for the Office of Homeland Security and it is easy to realize that the country has extended itself beyond its current gathering capabilities.

Offering various political and economic incentives to states showing some degree of improvement against terrorism could harm our diplomatic credibility by creating perceptions of favoritism. Since the policy initiation, trade sanctions have been placed against Syria, while Columbia has received additional funding for their terrorist issues. Such incentives can adversely affect the United States economy by reductions in foreign trade as well as increasing the nation's trillion-dollar deficit. Political efforts, where military training / operations are given to other nations in support of their war on terror as an incentive, will only increase the operational tempo of an already fully committed force.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The current United States operating environment in the prosecution of the global war on terrorism utilizing the "4D" strategy to combat terrorism is increasing. This operational increase is due to the United States simultaneously conducting military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, training foreign militaries in the Pacific and Europe to defeat terrorist organizations, pursuing international political endeavors by establishing mutual defense treaties, and flexing of national will as the United States openly abolishes those nations who continue to harbor and support Al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations. Because of these actions, the United States needs stronger international support in these critical endeavors. First, an agreement must be



reached over the United States presence within the Holy Lands (general meaning Arab region) by western forces / personnel. One of Al-Qaeda's major objectives is to remove all the infidels from the Holy Land. Politically, the United States needs to reach an agreement of understanding with the Arab states within the region that the United States' forces will redeploy once stability in the region has occurred. This act may create trust so that not only moderate Muslims but even extremists will give peace a chance. If enacted, the call for jihad against the United States interest would undermine Al-Qaeda's activities and their anti-western ideology.

Secondly, Muslims view the United States' support for Israel against Palestine as biased since Muslims believe the Palestinians' cause to be one of self defense and survival. Although not widely acknowledged, and even less broadcast by the media, the United States is an advocate for a separate Palestinian homeland. However, every time the United States tries to broker a peace settlement between Israel and Palestine, terrorist activity increases and the agreed upon cease-fire is broken. Then the security situation sadly returns to the status quo – life for a life. The United States has spent a lot of political capital uselessly due to the inability to convince moderate Palestinian's that peace is possible. Future attempts by the United States to broker a peace settlement in which terrorist activities derail the effort, should be met by an international political and informational campaign. This campaign should not only identify the terrorist organizations responsible, but also the moderate groups that support these extremists in their neighborhoods as an equal criminal partner in this bloody conflict. Without their support, the violence would ultimately cease.

These international issues will take an immense amount of political coordination and time before these two parties ever agree on a settlement. Until this happens, the United States must continue its efforts to protect its citizens against terrorist attacks intended to kill innocent citizens or damage and destroy American property. Although the United States Strategy on Combating Terrorism goes a long way in ensuring a safe environment for Americans to live and work in, several details need to be expanded or added to the strategy. Some areas which need attention are changes to the search and seizure laws, requirement for national identification cards, terrorist awareness programs, media influence, and military support.

Detailed legislative action concerning search and seizure laws should be passed, granting the FBI and other law enforcement agencies more flexibility for collecting information on terrorists and their groups. The United States Patriot Act was a step forward. However, additional measures are still required so cases concerning terrorists can withstand an appeals process by the courts if the act is based on a violation of the subject's first amendment rights. Laws dealing with profiling of terrorist suspects using a carefully screened, automated activity-

filtering template should be made legal in order for federal law enforcement agencies to utilize the vast commercial credit card and financial databases to detect terrorist activities. Civil liberties organization are just now starting to engage the government over the constitutionality of these laws and what is reasonable to counter terrorist activities in the United States. Until a court ruling is given on the legality of this type search and seizure, cooperation between law enforcement agencies and commercial database businesses will be minimal.

A national identification card containing a digital photo, fingerprint, and additional identifying information stored on a computer chip sealed in a tamper proof material with a security password known only to that person should be mandatory to validate a person's credentials. This governmental identity card would serve in the same capacity of those currently in use in states like Germany. This information would be placed into a nationally accessible database used for obtaining permission to issue passports, visas, air travel, clearance for internet usage, and permits to purchase or transport possible explosive materials. International students and personnel staying in country longer than 14 days would be required to possess a governmental identity card issued by the National Immigration Service or Department of State.

Also, the United States should consider implementing a program concerning terrorist awareness, to be made available nationally. While all U.S. citizens of the United States know the nation is at war against terrorism, they have little knowledge about how to protect themselves or identify potential threats. To solidify the security posture of the United States, citizens should be offered the opportunity to attend a training session dealing with the detection of possible terrorist activities and protective measures to take against such a threat. A program currently called "CAT-EYE", conducted by the New York Police Department, would offer such training. "The CAT-EYE program helps average citizens become part of the war on terrorism by providing them with a base of knowledge about terrorism in general and the basics of a terrorist operation."<sup>16</sup> The negative side of this program will be exposing information learned about terrorist operations thus tipping our hand to said terrorists. The counter to such concerns will be a better informed public that will recognize suspicious personnel / activities outside the norm in their area and will alert law enforcement agencies of such activities.

Next, the media, both domestically and internationally, has played a powerful part in influencing the public on the United States' execution of its global war on terrorism. Positive public opinion in support of governmental actions, while denouncing terrorist activities, is vital in the United States global war on terror. Because of the easy manipulation of the media by terrorists in which news personnel are forced into a role of mediator and often chief marketing director for the terrorists, a national code of ethics governing the media regarding terrorist news

coverage should be developed. This code would request that reporting of terrorist activities be reviewed with federal officials prior to release in order not to compromise any on-going or future operations. Compliance by the media will have to be internal to the media since the government cannot, and the public will not stand for, censorship by the government over the press.

The second informational objective would be to inform the world's Muslim population that the United States is not at war with Islam. Since September 11, 2001, the United States has deported Muslims, restricted and frozen their financial assets, and investigated and occupied by force two Muslim states, all of which have increased the perception of the international Muslim community that the United States is at war against Islam. This perception has helped terrorist recruitment of uneducated, poor, socially restricted, and often-jobless Muslim men who have been misled and easily convinced that the United States is truly against Islam. This view is widely believed even by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, who in a recent speech in London stated... "Today Muslims are labeled as terrorist. We don't think that is justified."<sup>17</sup> This perception presents the greatest challenge to the United States. If we win in our conflict with Al-Qaeda, the United States will still know no peace, since we will have alienated ourselves against the world's Muslim population. In order to change this perception, the United States should coordinate with the highest and most respected Ulama (Islamic religious scholar and leader) in as many states as possible and have them issue a fatwa supporting the United States GWOT and denouncing terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaeda.

Finally, we should continue the support to the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) Commander who is responsible for the Middle East and East Africa area and the officer responsible for several specialized covert search teams to find and apprehend Osama Bin Laden. Just recently established, this joint task force of elite special operators and conventional forces needs the support of agents from the Department of Justice and the Department of State. Civilian participation in international apprehension is far less restrictive. A joint group is more likely than a pure military force to gain permission to operate in a foreign sovereign state. Defense officials "described the force as an antidote to those who were concerned that the war to topple Mr. Hussein had taken the military's eye off the other prizes; capturing Mr. Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda leaders."<sup>18</sup> The capture of Osama Bin Laden would be like cutting off the head of a snake because of Al-Qaeda's top-down command structure.

## CONCLUSION

The United States has been engaged against Osama Bin Laden for many years even prior to September 11, 2001. During this period, the United States has basically only tried to limit his efforts through political and limited military means. Al-Qaeda's openly aggressive attack of September 11 was a wake-up call to America's security that has not been experienced since December 7, 1941 and the surprise attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor. The United States, just like it did during WWII, has awakened and vowed to avenge the deaths wreaked by Al-Qaeda deeds. Al-Qaeda's attack was just the start of a renewed series to undermine America's security. Osama Bin Laden has declared... "I swear by Almighty God who raised the heavens without the pillars that neither the United States nor he who lives in the United States will enjoy security before we can see it as a reality in Palestine and before all the infidel armies leave the land of Muhammad may God's peace and blessing be upon him."<sup>19</sup> The United States can only believe that until Al-Qaeda is decisively defeated and Osama Bin Laden is dead or in United States custody, that the security of the United States has been restored. Therefore, until Al-Qaeda or Osama Bin Laden is captured or killed, the United States must continue to utilize all its national powers (political, economic, informational, and military) to undermine his influence and ultimately defeat his international network of terrorists for the good of the United States and the American people. Additionally, we must try and reach a solution wherein Western influence is perceived by Muslims to be in their best interest for peace in the Arab region.

The National Strategy for Combating Terrorism with its broad-based "4D" concept of attacking terrorism has only been implemented since February 2003. Current assessment of the policy shows that the operational freedom of Al-Qaeda is now severely restricted by the United States liberation of Afghanistan from the Taliban and the forced regime change in Iraq. With better-coordinated intelligence dissemination among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in the apprehension of terrorists, the freezing of financial accounts and assets of all known and suspected terrorists and their support elements has reduced the frequency of attacks moderately due to numerous arrests and funding shortages among Al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations. These actions, coupled with the up-coming criminal trials and sentencing of Al-Qaeda terrorists, will serve to show the international community that the United States is dedicated in bringing to justice those involved in the September 11 attack as well as defeating terrorism across the globe. Even given all these hard-won accomplishments, Al-Qaeda and the rest of the world's terrorist organizations only want to know the answer to one question: Do the American people still have the resolve to carry the fight to

them? This question is best answered by President Bush's remarks at Ellis Island, New York on the first anniversary of September 11, 2001,

America has entered a great struggle that tests our strength, and even more our resolve. Our nation is patient and steadfast. We continue to pursue the terrorists in cities and camps and caves across the earth. We are joined by a great coalition of nations to rid the world of terror. And we will not allow any terrorist or tyrant to threaten civilization with weapons of mass murder. Now and in the future, Americans will live as free people, not in fear, and never at the mercy of any foreign plot or power.<sup>20</sup>

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## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> President George W. Bush, *National Strategy for Combating Terrorism* (Washington, D.C.: The White House, February 2003), 1.

<sup>2</sup> "Osama Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda," October 2001; available from <http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/terrornet/12.htm>; Internet; accessed 23 September 2003, 1.

<sup>3</sup> "Al-Qa'ida (The Base)," available from <http://www.intellnet.org/documents/200/060/269.html>; Internet; accessed 2 September 2003, 4.

<sup>4</sup> President George W. Bush, "President Bush's Message to Congress, Sept. 24," *National Desk*, 24 September 2001, sec. National Desk, doc. 30 of 125 (1711); available from Lexis-Nexis; accessed 2 September 2003.

<sup>5</sup> Peter J. Schoomaker, "Old rules no longer apply...", 28 October 2003; available from <http://www.army.mil/>; Internet; accessed 28 October 2003

<sup>6</sup> Bush, 11-12.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 15-17.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 17-22

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control, *Terrorism. Executive Order 13224*, (The White House, 23 September 2001), 1.

<sup>10</sup> Ron Hutcheson, "Bush Vows U.S. Help Against Al-Qaida-Linked Fighters," *Harrisburg Patriot News*, 19 October 2003, sec. A, p.17.

<sup>11</sup> Bush, 22-24.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 24-27.

<sup>13</sup> Chris Strohm, "Agencies Get Failing Grades on Cybersecurity," 9 December 17, 2003 <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1203/120903c1.htm>; Internet; accessed 17 December 2003.

<sup>14</sup> Michele A. Flournoy, "Strengthening Security at Home," *Joint Force Quarterly, Tenth Anniversary Year* 34 (Spring 2003): 138.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 138.

<sup>16</sup> Paul Davis, "Police-Security Expo Held for Eyes & Ears" in the War on Terrorism," *Counterterrorism & Security Reports* 10, no. 1 (2002)

<sup>17</sup> Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad, "Islam and the Ummah: Reexamining and Reinventing Ourselves in the Face of New Challenges" Speech by the Honorable Prime Minister of Malaysia, 22 September 2003.

<sup>18</sup> Thom Shanker and Eric Schmitt, "Pentagon says A Covert Force Hunts Hussein," 7 November 2003;

<<https://www.us.army.mil/portal/jhtml/earlyBird/Nov2003/e20031107231265.html>>. Internet; accessed 8 November 2003

<sup>19</sup> Anonymous, *Through Our Enemies' Eyes: Osama Bin Laden, Radical Islam, and the Future of America* (Washington, D.C.: Brassey's, 2002), ix.

<sup>20</sup> President George, Bush Jr., "President's Remarks to the Nation," 11 September 2002; available from <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/release/2002/09/20020911-3.html>>; Internet: accessed 23 September 2003.

## GLOSSARY

Al-Qaeda: Arabic word which means “The Base”. The Al-Qaeda terrorist organization has numerous names depending on the geographical region the cell is located. Example: The Islamic Army, the World Islamic Front for Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders, the Islamic Army for the Liberation of the Holy Places, the Osama Bin Laden Network or Organization, Islamic salvation Foundation, the Group for the Preservation of the Holy Sites.

Ends: Objectives, which ones strives.

Fatwa: A binding religious ruling made on the basis of Islamic law by a qualified Islamic scholar or jurist.

International terrorism: Terrorism involving the territory or the citizens of more than one country.

Jihad: “Holy War” more accurately rendered “striving” in the cause of God.” The term is divided into two categories; the greater jihad is the individual’s struggle against evil and temptation; the lesser jihad is the armed defense of Islam.

Means: Instruments by which some ends can be achieved.

Murjahid: “Holy Warrior” describes a Muslim who takes part in Jihad. The collective term is Mujahedin.

Terrorism: The unlawful use of – or threatened use of – force or violence against individual or property to coerce or intimidate governments or societies often to achieve political, religious or ideological objectives.

Ways: Courses of action





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